WEIRD WORLDS

FEB
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FEATURING:
THE HORROR OF

THE HUNGRY BRAIN

THE EERIE

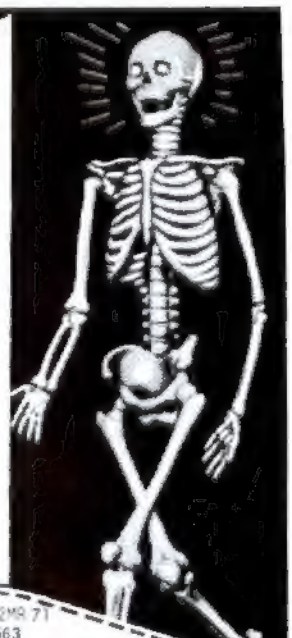
SPACE SPIRITS

THE UNUSUAL

WEIRD ROBOTS

PLUS
OTHER SPACE
CREATURE
FEATURES

MONSTER S-I-Z-E MONSTERS



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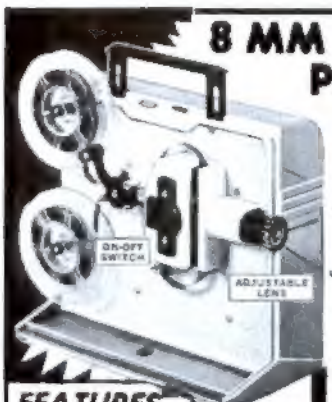

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WEIRD WORLDS

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FEBRUARY 1971
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CARL BURGOS, Editor IRVING FASS, Art Director
EZRA JACKSON, Art Editor

WEIRD WORLDS is published bi-monthly by EERIE PUBLICATIONS, INC., 222 Park Avenue South, New York, N. Y. 10003. The publisher assumes no responsibility for unsolicited material. Any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental.

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Single-copy price: 50¢. Application to mail at second-class rates pending at New York, N. Y. Printed in U.S.A.

THE HUNGRY BRAIN

GEORGIE HOPED THAT SOME DAY HE MIGHT HAVE ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD! THEN HE COULD OWN EVERYTHING! HE THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE VERY NICE! BUT HIS OLD GRANDFATHER HAD HAD A VERY STRANGE EXPERIENCE... A TERRIBLE NIGHT WHEN THE LITTLE METAL MONSTERS CAME AND ABDUCTED HIM.

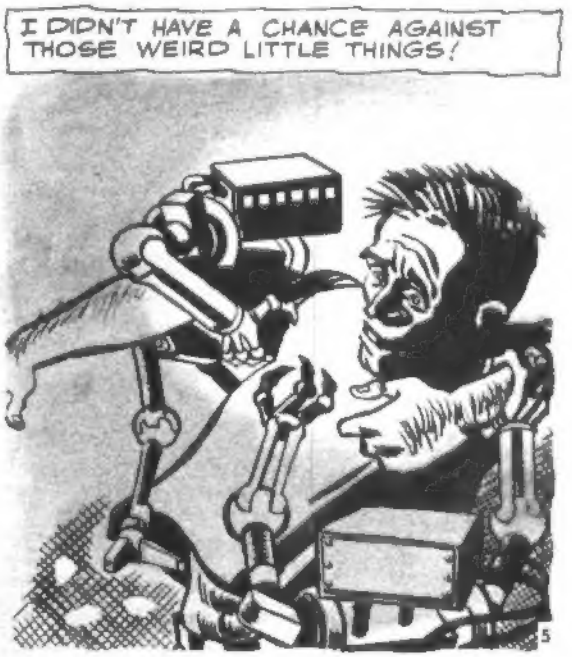
IT WAS ONE SUMMER WHEN I WAS NINETEEN! FATHER OWNED A JEWELRY STORE IN THE VILLAGE OF GANSVILLE! HE WAS SICK AND I WAS RUNNING IT FOR HIM!
HOW'S YOUR FATHER, LARRY? BETTER I HOPE?
YES, HE IS! THANKS, MRS. SMITHERS!
JEWELRY THE BEST

ONE EVENING WHEN I WAS CLOSING, THERE SEEMED TO BE A QUEER PURPLE LIGHT COMING FROM NOWHERE...
HEY! WHERE'S THAT COMING FROM?

IT WAS GONE IN A MINUTE! I THOUGHT I SMELLED A QUEER CHEMICAL SMELL, BUT I COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING!
OH, WELL, IT DIDN'T DO ANY DAMAGE...

AND THEN ONE NIGHT, WHEN I WAS CLOSING THE STORE...!
AFTER NINE O'CLOCK! NO MORE CUSTOMERS! MIGHT AS WELL CLOSE UP...

I DIDN'T SEE THE LITTLE MONSTER-THINGS... BUT WHEN I TURNED...
WHA--?!
ZAT SUF!
GRUPT!


I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST THOSE WEIRD LITTLE THINGS!

I DIDN'T QUITE LOSE CONSCIOUSNESS! DIMLY I COULD SEE THEM LOOTING THE SHOP...
THAT LIGHT GLOW WAS STILL STREAMING UP! IT WAS LIKE A LITTLE TUNNEL, AND NOW I COULD FEEL THEM DRAGGING ME...
WHEN THE LIGHT-GLOW HIT ME, IT WAS THE WEIRDEST FEELING I'VE EVER HAD...
I--I SEEM TO BE CHANGING!
EVERYTHING WAS DIFFERENT! I WAS IN A DIFFERENT WORLD!
YARA! YOU-- YARA!
...THAT THING SEEMS TO BE TELLING ME TO COME ALONG WITH IT!
THEY HADN'T WANTED TO KILL ME! THAT MUCH SEEMED SURE... WE PASSED A FIELD WHERE FOOD WAS GROWING, AND---
...WHY-- THEY'RE HUMAN!
THEN WE CAME TO A LITTLE VILLAGE OF SOLID ROCK HUTS! I WAS SHOVED INTO ONE OF THEM, AND---
LOOK, AZA! THEY'VE BROUGHT A SLAVE FROM THE OUTER WORLD!
OHH... ANOTHER POOR SLAVE TO WORK LIKE US IN THE ROCK-PITS!
WHA---?!

IT WAS A WORLD OF THE FOURTH DIMENSION, GEORGIE! HUMANS THERE... LIKE OURSELVES!
WE SLAANS ARE ALL SLAVES HERE! SLAVES TO THE GIANT BRAIN!
ALL DAY WE DIG IN THE ROCK-PITS! DIGGING FOOD FOR THE MONSTER, WHO NEVER CAN GET ENOUGH!

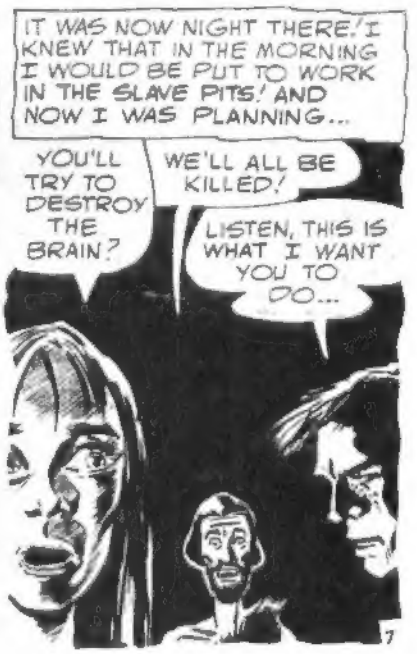
WORKING TILL WE ARE EXHAUSTED! WE DO NOT DARE REBEL!
THERE WAS ONE OF US WHO TRIED THAT... AND THE TORKS KILLED HIM!
TORKS? YOU MEAN THOSE LITTLE CUBE THINGS?

NOW I UNDERSTOOD! THE MONSTER BRAIN HAD NO BODY OF ITS OWN! THE TORKS WERE LIKE ROBOTS! THEY HAD NO BRAINS OF THEIR OWN-- ONLY THE THOUGHT-COMMANDS OF THEIR MASTER!
THE BRAIN HAS BROUGHT YOU HERE BECAUSE YOU ARE BIG AND STRONG!
THE GREAT MASTER WISHES TO SEE YOU NOW! COME!
...DO NOT TRY TO REBEL!
--?

AND THEN...
MORE! FASTER, YOU FOOLS! I'M HUNGRY! MORE! I WANT MORE!
... THEY'RE FEEDING IT ROCK ORE! IT'S FOOD-- FUEL!

AND THEN, LIKE A DESSERT, THEY WERE FEEDING IT LITTLE GLEAMING YELLOW OBJECTS!
THE GOLD JEWELRY THEY LOOTED FROM FATHER'S SHOP!

THEN IN A MOMENT MORE...
I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO WORK FOR ME, EARTHMAN! I OWN EVERYTHING HERE! HA-HA! IT'S ALL MINE... TAKE HIM AWAY AND PUT HIM TO WORK!


IT WAS NOW NIGHT THERE! I KNEW THAT IN THE MORNING I WOULD BE PUT TO WORK IN THE SLAVE PITS! AND NOW I WAS PLANNING...
YOU'LL TRY TO DESTROY THE BRAIN?
WE'LL ALL BE KILLED!
LISTEN, THIS IS WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO...

AND THAT NEXT MORNING, IN THE SLAVE PIT...
THE MASTER WANTS MORE!
YOU ARE STRONG! YOU CAN DIG FASTER THAN THAT!
MORE! HURRY! HURRY!
I WATCHED MY CHANCE AND WHISPERED TO ELTO AND AZA!
WE'VE GOT TO GET CLOSER TO THE BRAIN!
THE TORKS WILL STOP US!
MAYBE NOT! TRY IT SLOWLY!
LITTLE BY LITTLE WE EDGED CLOSER TO THE BRAIN... AND...
STOP, EARTHMAN! WHAT ARE YOU...
THE DIGGING IS BETTER OVER THERE!
THEN AT LAST...
THERE IS THE EARTHMAN'S SIGNAL!
WHAT? SLAAN WOMAN! HOW DARE YOU STOP?
GIVES ME MY CHANCE! THEY'RE NOT WATCHING ME!
SHE CAN'T WORK ANY MORE! GIVE HER REST!
OH!
YOU LIKE ROCK-FOOD-- HERE'S SOME!
WHA--?
THE EARTHMAN! STOP! STOP!
STOP! STOP!
AS THE BIG-CHUNK CRASHED INTO THE PALPITATING MEMBRANE OF THE MONSTER...
YEOWWW! AIEEEEEEEE!

THE THING WAS GRUESOME! WRITHING IN DEATH AGONY, WITH FIRES SPREADING IN IT, THE MONSTER BRAIN SCREAMED! AND AS IT SCREAMED, ALL THE LITTLE TORKS WERE SCREAMING, TOO...
WOW! BETTER GET OUT OF HERE!
AIEEE!
AIEEEEEEEE
AIEEE!
THERE'S THE LIGHT-TUNNEL! IF I CAN PLUNGE INTO IT...
AGAIN I WAS IN THAT WEIRD TRANSITION... HURTLING BACK FROM THE WORLD OF THE FOURTH DIMENSION...
AND THEN...
...WELL!! HERE I AM!
AN' WHAT HAPPENED THEN, GRANDPA?
THAT LIGHT-GLOW VANISHED! I NEVER SAW IT AGAIN! I CERTAINLY HOPE THOSE POOR SLAVES MADE OUT ALL RIGHT! I FIGURE THEY DID! WITH THE BRAIN-MONSTER DEAD, I GUESS THOSE TORKS WERE LIFELESS, TOO!
THAT WAS A VERY DIFFERENT WORLD FROM OURS, GEORGIE! AND YOU CAN SEE IT WOULDN'T BE NICE FOR ANYBODY TO OWN EVERYTHING...
I SURE GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, GRANDPA!
The End

THE BURNING CREATURE!
A BLAZING, GRIPPING TALE OF SPACIAL HORROR AND MAN'S INNOCENT LITTLE HABIT THAT SET A PLANET ON FIRE WHICH SPARKED AN EXPLOSION THAT SHOOK THE UNIVERSE!
AYERS

ON THE SCREEN, A WORLD DIED... MOUNTAINS OF FLAME LEAPED TEN THOUSAND MILES INTO SPACE! AND AT THE FIRE'S HEART, A PLANET WRITHED...

THE STUDENTS IN THE LECTURE HALL LEANED FORWARD, HUSHED... STUDYING THE AWE-SOME SPECTALE. HARDLY AWARE OF THEIR PROFESSOR'S DRY, OBJECTIVE WORDS...

THIS, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IS...

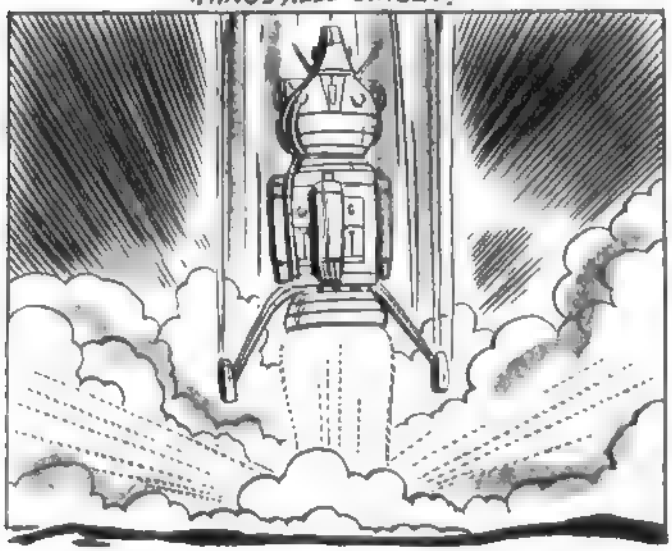
...OR **WAS** A PLANET OF THE STAR **ALPHA CENTAURI!** WE HAVE NAMED IT **THOR**...

THE PROFESSOR MOTIONED TO THE FIERY IMAGE ON THE SCREEN...

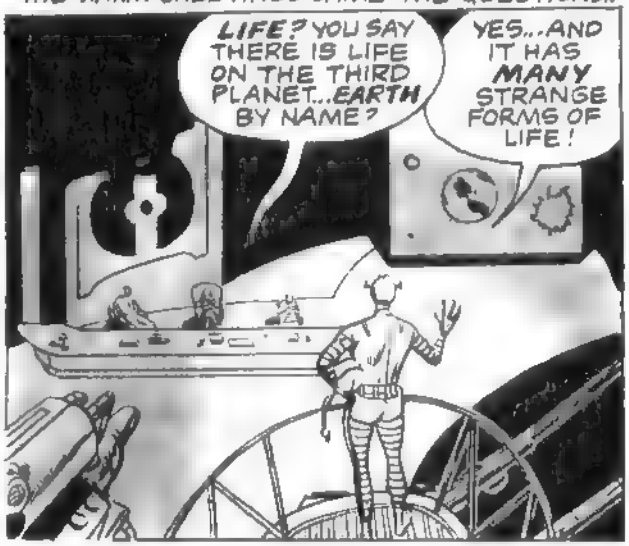
TOO DISTANT FROM EARTH TO BE PICKED UP BY OUR TELESCOPES THOR WAS DISCOVERED AND PHOTOGRAPHED ONLY BECAUSE IT SUDDENLY BURST INTO **FLAME!**

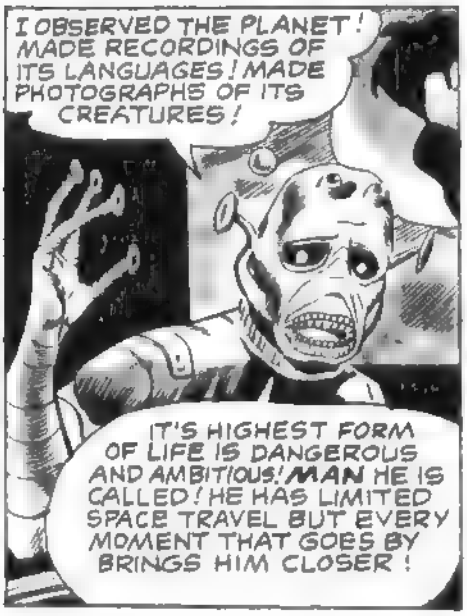
WHY IT **DID** SO, WE DO NOT KNOW! A SPECTROSCOPIC ANALYSIS SHOWS THOR'S ATMOSPHERE TO BE MADE UP OF ONE PART OXYGEN AND NINE PARTS **METHANE!** OBVIOUSLY, LIFE AS WE KNOW IT COULD **NOT** HAVE EXISTED IN SUCH AN ATMOSPHERE...

WHAT THE PROF DID NOT KNOW WAS, PRIOR TO THE EXPLOSION ON THOR, A SPACE SHIP LANDED SOFTLY ON ITS SURFACE – THERE WAS LIFE ON THAT PLANET! THE QUESTION IS, DO ALL LIVING THINGS NEED OXYGEN?



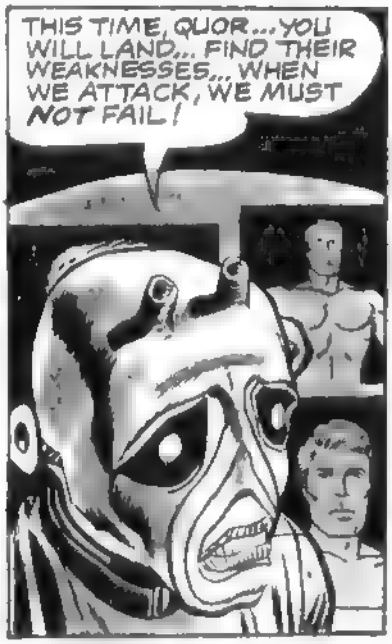
...HOWEVER, THE PILOT WAS CONDUCTED TO THE LEADERS WITH GREAT HONORS, FOR QUOR, THE PILOT HAD JUST COMPLED THE FIRST INTER-SOLAR SYSTEM SPACE FLIGHT! AFTER THE WARM GREETINGS CAME THE QUESTIONS..

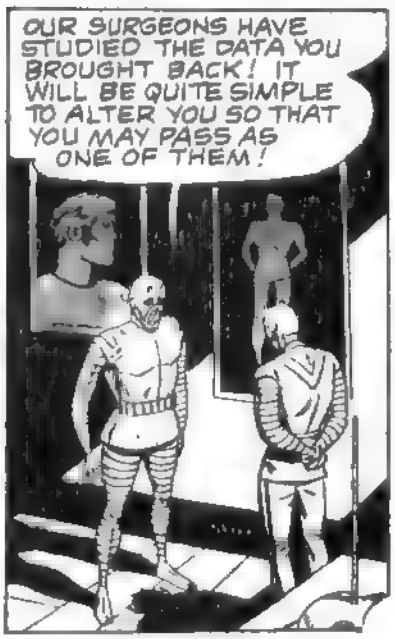




THE LEADERS DISMISSED QUOR AND CONFERRED UNEASILY IN HISSING WHISPERS...

ONCE AGAIN, QUOR WAS SUMMONED! THERE WAS NO QUESTION AS TO WHAT COURSE TO FOLLOW! LOGIC PROVIDED THE ANSWER...



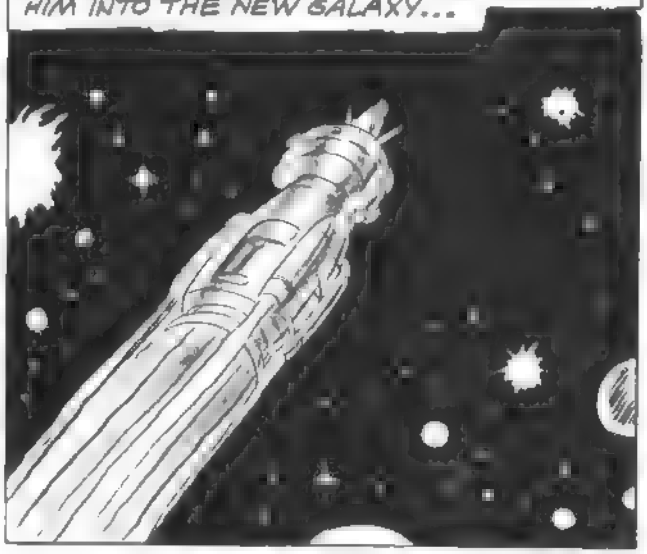


AND SO IT WAS... ONE DAY, THE LEADERS GATHERED AGAIN! QUOR HAD MASTERED ONE OF THE LANGUAGES OF EARTH WHICH WENT WITH HIS NEWLY ACQUIRED BODY...

OUR SURGEONS HAVE MADE YOU TO LOOK LIKE AN EARTH MAN... BUT BE WARY... UPON YOU DEPENDS THE ULTIMATE FATE OF OUR WORLD! REMEMBER...

YOU MUST NOT BE DISCOVERED! YOU MUST **FEEL** AND **THINK** AS EARTH MEN DO!

THE SHIP SLOWLY VIA MAGNETIC POWER WITH QUOR ON HIS MISSION THAT WAS TO LAND HIM INTO THE NEW GALAXY...



THE LANGUAGE QUOR HAD MASTERED WAS SPOKEN IN ONE OF THE MANY LAND AREAS OF **EARTH**! QUOR HEADED HIS SPACE CRAFT THERE...

A YOUNG MAN APPEARED AT A FARMER'S DOOR...

A MEAL? WHY, I RECKON WE CAN SPARE SOME FOOD IN RETURN FOR CHOPPING SOME CORDWOOD! WHAT'S YOUR NAME, BOY?

JOHN DAVIS! I'M WILLING AND LOOKING FOR WORK!

QUOR THOUGHT THIS WAS A GOOD PLACE TO START BEING AN "EARTH MAN"...

WHAT DO YOU THINK, EMMIE? WE COULD USE A HIRED HAND!

HE SEEMS LIKE A NICE YOUNG MAN!

IT WAS SO EASY FOR QUOR TO BE ACCEPTED BY THESE CHILD-LIKE PEOPLE...

OKAY, THEN, JOHN! FIFTY A MONTH AND ROOM AND BOARD! THAT'S MY BEST OFFER... ER... **SMOKE**?

I'LL TAKE IT! OH... S-SMOKE? S-SURE! THANKS!

IT WAS IMPORTANT TO LEARN EVERYTHING! QUOR ACCEPTED THE THIN WHITE TUBE... WATCHED THE FARMER... THEN IMITATED HIS ACTIONS...

COME... I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM!

WE'LL TRY TO MAKE IT PLEASANT FOR YOU, JOHNNY!

SO! WHEN MEN WERE TENSE OR EXCITED THEY PUT A WHITE TUBE TO THEIR LIPS... LIT IT! QUOR SHUDDERED! HE WOULD REMEMBER IT FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!

BUT NOW... HE WAS SICK! THE ALIEN FOOD AND THE WHITE VAPOR FROM THE WHITE TUBE HAD NOT AGREED WITH HIM... IN HIS ROOM, THE FOOD HE'D EATEN SPEWED UP...

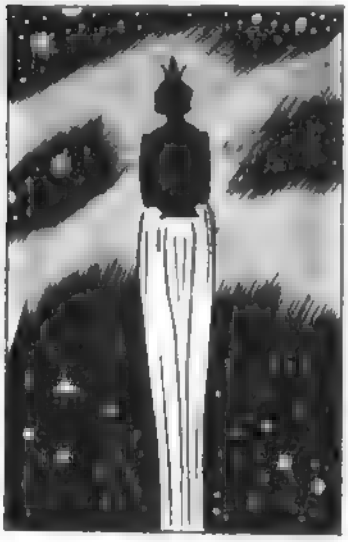
AN UNHAPPY BEGINNING, YES! BUT THIS WAS QUOR'S JOB TO OBSERVE, LEARN AND IMITATE! TO FIND THE INFORMATION HIS LEADERS SOUGHT! IN SPITE OF THE DISCOMFORTS, HE SOON BECAME USED TO IT...

QUOR HAD NO DIFFICULTY LEARNING! THERE WAS EVEN A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF AMUSEMENT TO BE FOUND... AT FIRST WITH THE YOUNGER FEMALE...

YES, THE FEMALE WAS A PROBLEM NEAR THE END! SHE SPOKE OF A STRANGE THING CALLED LOVE! NOW QUOR KNEW HE'D BEEN ACCEPTED AS A MAN... AND SO, HE MOVED ON...

THE REST OF QUOR'S TASK WAS FAIRLY SIMPLE! ONCE SURE HE WOULD NOT BE SUSPECTED HE MOVED FAST... AT THE SPACE CENTER IN TEXAS... IN THE PENTAGON...

...QUOR GATHERED HIS INFORMATION, AND WHEN HE'D FINISHED, HIS SHIP ROSE SILENTLY FROM EARTH HEADING HOME TOWARD THE STARS...



THEY MET HIM AT THE SPACEPORT... QUOR HAD NOT SEEN HIS PEOPLE FOR SO LONG. HE SHUDDERED AS ONE WOUND A TENTACLE AROUND HIS NECK...

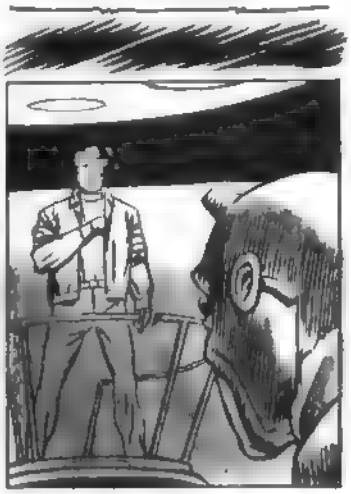
THEN QUOR REMEMBERED THE FAMILIAR SURROUNDINGS AND SMILED...

BUT QUOR WAS NOT READY! QUOR WAS NERVOUS, FRIGHTENED! HE COULD NOT HELP BUT WONDER! WHAT IF HIS INFORMATION WERE NOT COMPLETE? WHAT IF HE'D OVERLOOKED SOME VITAL DETAIL?

QUOR PACED THE FLOOR RESTLESSLY... AS AN EARTH MAN MIGHT, HE NOTED WRYLY! YES, HE HAD LEARNED HIS PART WELL! HE'D CONDITIONED HIMSELF TO ALMOST BEHAVE LIKE AN EARTH MAN INSTINCTIVELY...

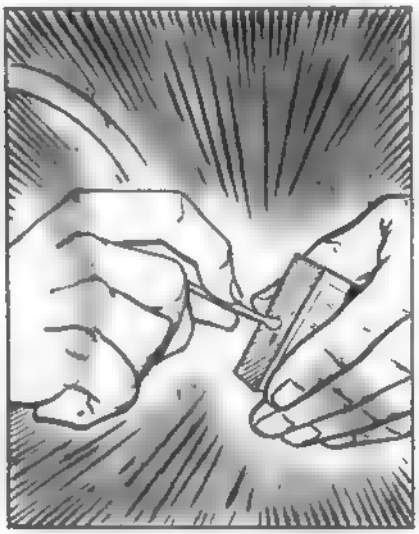
QUOR STOOD BEFORE HIS LEADERS, THE DATA IN HIS HAND...

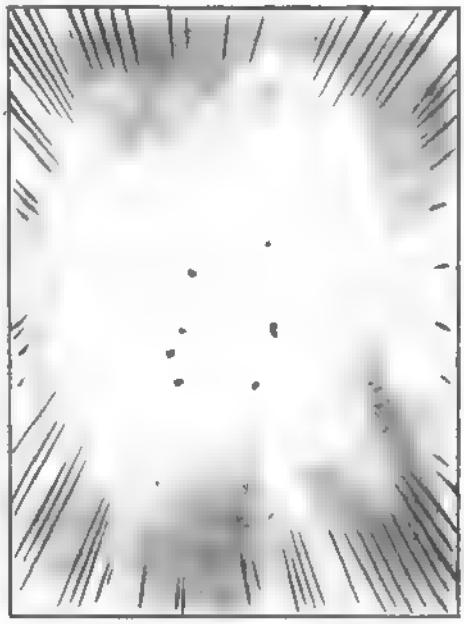
QUOR SHOOK! HIS INFORMATION HAD TO BE SUFFICIENT! SO MUCH DEPENDED ON HIM! HIS LEADERS EYES WATCHED HIM AS HE FUMBLED NERVOUSLY INSIDE A POCKET...



...WATCHED HIM AS HE PLACED A WHITE TUBE BETWEEN HIS LIPS...

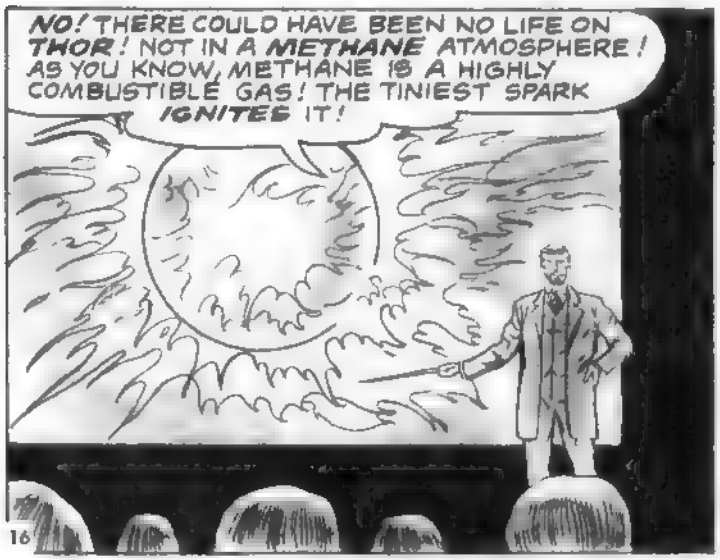
...UNCONSCIOSLY!...WATCHED HIM AS HE RUBBED A RED-TIP STICK ON A BROWN STRIP OF...



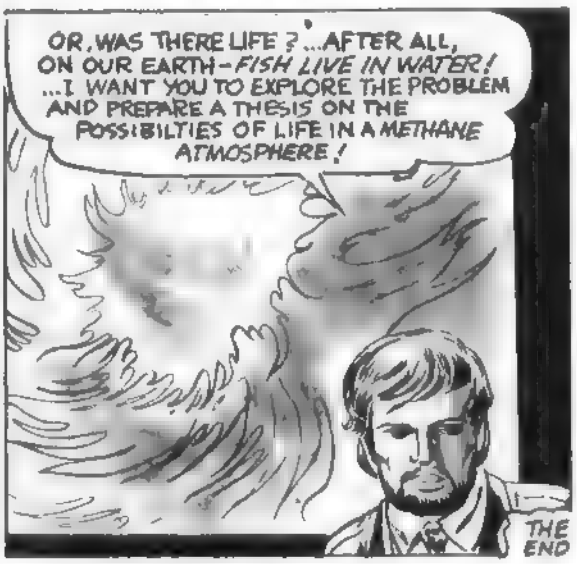


MEANWHILE

THE PROFESSOR PAUSED AS IF TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT HE HAD HIS STUDENTS' FULL ATTENTION...



THE PROFESSOR STARED AT THE FLAMING FURY ON THE SCREEN...



THE END

"CONSTANT VIGILANCE IS THE PRICE OF LIBERTY"... AND THAT IS AS TRUE IN THE YEAR 2560 AS IT IS TODAY! SO, WE FIND SPACE PATROL 312 ON THE OUTER FRINGE OF SPACE ALERTED FOR BREWING TROUBLE... BUT THE INSIDIOUS FATE THAT THREATENED EARTH WAS BEYOND THE WILDEST NIGHTMARE OF ANY MAN OF OUR WORLD!

SPACE SPIRITS

ALL QUIET IN THIS GALAXY, NEDDY, BOY! WE'LL SOON GET BACK AND RELAX A LITTLE!

YEA, MAN! I'M TIRED OF SPACE RATIONS FOR A WEEK AT A TIME! I'M GONNA WRAP ME AROUND A NICE OL' FASHIONED STEAK!

SPACE PATROL 312'S JOB WAS ROUTINE--EARTH WAS TEMPORARILY AT PEACE AND PATROLLING WAS ROUTINE--UP TILL THEN!

THAT COVERS THIS QUADRANT, NEDDY! I THINK I'LL LET YOU TAKE OVER AND... HUH?

LOOK! ON THE PORT QUARTER--A SPACE SHIP IN DISTRESS! WE HAVE WORK TO DO, BOSS!

LOOKS DESERTED, NEDDY! I GUESS ONE OF US WILL HAVE TO GET INTO A SPACE SUIT AND LOOK IT OVER! WHO'LL IT BE?

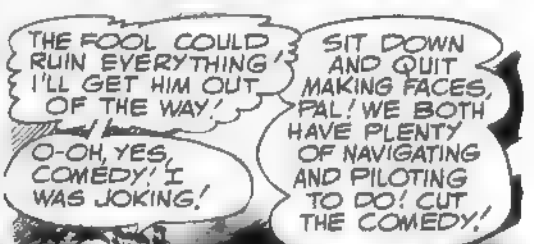
I'LL GO SKIPPER! I DUNNO THOUGH IF I'M NOT BACK IN A HURRY, COME ARUNNIN'! THIS GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

THE CO-PILOT SWIFTLY DONNED THE SPACE SUIT CARRIED FOR EMERGENCIES...
YOU HAVE THE MIKE IF YOU NEED ME, NEDDY! CHECK UP, THEN GET BACK--OUR PATROL IS FINISHED AND I WANT TO GET BACK!
YOU! WANNA GET BACK! THIS'LL BE THE QUICKEST INVESTIGATION ON RECORD! I STILL GOT THE CREEPS!

HE'S A GOOD BUDDY! HE AND I WILL HAVE SOME FUN WHEN WE GET BACK! HE'S RIGHT THOUGH... THERE'S SOMETHING FUNNY ABOUT THIS! CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT...

ABOARD THE DERELICT...
NO! AAAHHHHHH!

SHAKE IT UP, BUSTER! TIME'S AWASTIN'!
I'M DOING MY BEST, SIR!

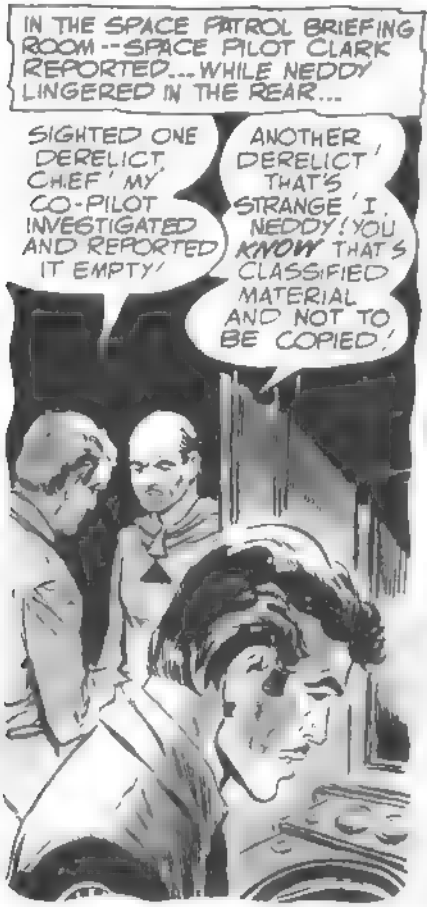

THE FOOL COULD RUIN EVERYTHING! I'LL GET HIM OUT OF THE WAY!
O-OH, YES, COMEDY! I WAS JOKING!
SIT DOWN AND QUIT MAKING FACES, PAL! WE BOTH HAVE PLENTY OF NAVIGATING AND PILOTING TO DO! CUT THE COMEDY!

RON CLARK SET THE COURSE--EARTHBOUND, AND A WELL EARNED REST AHEAD! HE NOTICED NOTHING WRONG...
I'M GLAD THAT'S OVER, NEDDY! I THOUGHT A GHOST GRABBED YOU OR SOMETHING!
GHOST? WHY DO YOU SAY THAT? YOU STAYED IN THE EARTH SHIP AT YOUR POST, DIDN'T YOU?

LATER... SPACE PATROL BIZ CAME IN TO LAND ON EARTH...
RIGHT ON SCHEDULE! IT'LL BE GOOD TO SEE RON AFTER ALL THIS TIME!
THAT NEDDY BETTER PROPOSE THIS TIME! HE'S BEEN STUTTERING AND STAMMERING FOR MONTHS NOW! I'LL PROBABLY HAVE TO DO IT MYSELF!

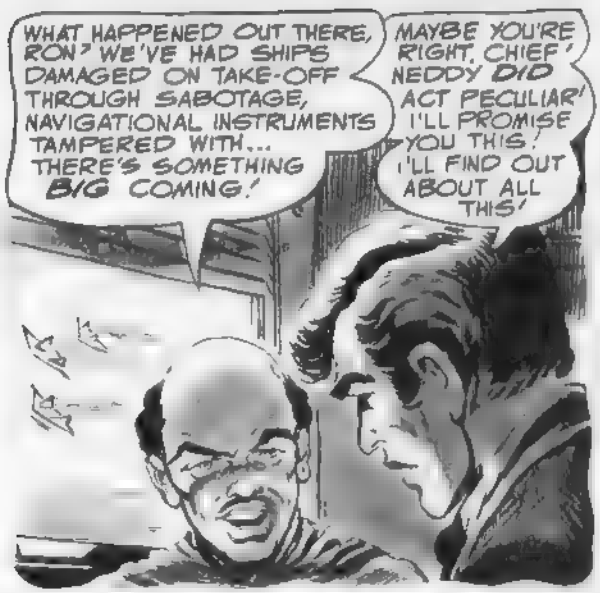
MISS ME, CHICK? SAVE IT FOR LATER .. CHECK IN TIME!
NEDDY! AREN'T YOU GOING TO KISS ME?
ONE SIDE, PLEASE! I'M BUSY!

HE ACTED SO STRANGE! YOU SAW HIM, DINA!
THAT WASN'T LIKE NEDDY! HE SOUNDED ODD TOO! I'LL ASK RON IF ANYTHING HAPPENED!


IN THE SPACE PATROL BRIEFING ROOM -- SPACE PILOT CLARK REPORTED... WHILE NEDDY LINGERED IN THE REAR...
SIGHTED ONE DERELICT CHIEF! MY CO-PILOT INVESTIGATED AND REPORTED IT EMPTY!
ANOTHER DERELICT! THAT'S STRANGE! I, NEDDY! YOU KNOW THAT'S CLASSIFIED MATERIAL AND NOT TO BE COPIED!

YOU COULD BE COURT-MARTIALED FOR THAT, NEDDY! WHAT'S THE MATTER, MAN?
AW, HE HAS WOMAN TROUBLE, CHIEF! HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
SORRY, CHIEF! I APOLOGIZE!

PECULIAR? CERTAINLY... BUT THEN THE SPIRITS FROM OUTER SPACE AREN'T TOO FAMILIAR WITH EARTHLY PROCEDURES...
THAT'LL BE ALL, NEDDY! RON, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU! THERE'S SOMETHING GOING ON... AND IT FRIGHTENS ME!

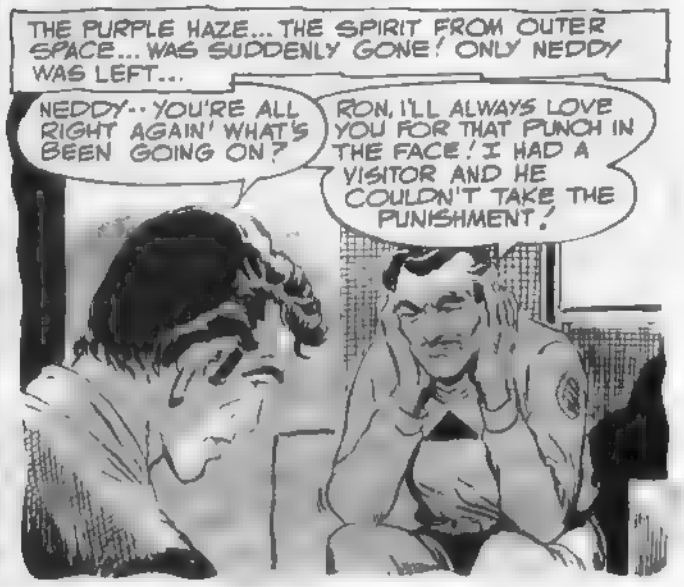

WHAT HAPPENED OUT THERE, RON? WE'VE HAD SHIPS DAMAGED ON TAKE-OFF THROUGH SABOTAGE, NAVIGATIONAL INSTRUMENTS TAMPERED WITH... THERE'S SOMETHING BIG COMING!
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, CHIEF! NEDDY DID ACT PECULIAR! I'LL PROMISE YOU THIS! I'LL FIND OUT ABOUT ALL THIS!

OUTSIDE--THE ONE WHO HAD BEEN NEDDY WAS HAVING TROUBLE--WOMEN TROUBLE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'RE BUSY! I DON'T THINK YOU MEAN THAT!
PLEASE, GO AWAY! I DO NOT WISH TO SPEAK TO YOU!
HEY, BUSTER--I WANT WORDS! I'LL SEE YOU LATER, MARIE!

REMOVE YOUR HANDS PLEASE! I DON'T LIKE PHYSICAL CONTACT!
DON'T HAND ME THAT! YOU AND I'VE BEEN THROUGH TOO MUCH FOR THAT! I'LL PUNCH YOUR HEAD OFF IF YOU DON'T COME CLEAN! WHAT HAPPENED ON THAT DERELICT?

COME CLEAN--AND DROP THE POP-GUN! WHAT HAPPENED?
GET AWAY! I'LL KILL...OOOF!

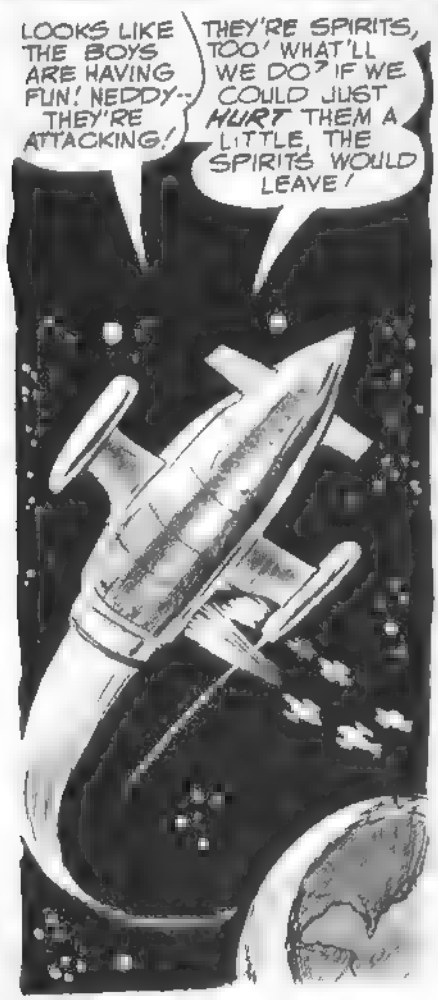
RON HAD FOUND THE CHINK IN THE THING'S ARMOR-- IN THE BODY OF A MAN, PHYSICAL PAIN WAS UNBEARABLE...
CHOKE... YOU UGH!
I HATE TO DO THIS, CHUM-- BUT I HAVE A HUNCH YOU NEED IT! WHAT'S THAT PURPLE STUFF?


THE PURPLE HAZE... THE SPIRIT FROM OUTER SPACE... WAS SUDDENLY GONE! ONLY NEDDY WAS LEFT...
NEDDY--YOU'RE ALL RIGHT AGAIN! WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?
RON, I'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU FOR THAT PUNCH IN THE FACE! I HAD A VISITOR AND HE COULDN'T TAKE THE PUNISHMENT!

WHAT? WHAT ELSE DO YOU KNOW? DID YOU SENSE ANYTHING?
I DUNNO. I SORT OF REMEMBER HIM OR IT COMMUNICATING WITH OTHER THINGS RIGHT HERE AT THE FIELD! I THINK OTHERS ARE COMING!

RON HURRIED TO THE CHIEF... AND FOUND A CHANGED MAN...
SIR, NEDDY JUST GAVE ME SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION! WE CAN GET RID OF THESE "SPIRITS" AND I KNOW HOW! WE'LL JUST...
YOU TALK LIKE A FOOL! I'VE DECIDED TO SEND YOU ON A MISSION! GET YOUR CO-PILOT AND LEAVE AT ONCE! I'LL INSTRUCT YOU WHEN YOU ARE SPACE-BORNE!

LATER...
I THINK THE CHIEF BLEW HIS STACK!
DON'T YOU SEE, RON? THAT THING FROM SPACE IS IN HIM NOW! IT SENT US OUT TO BE KILLED!


LOOKS LIKE THE BOYS ARE HAVING FUN! NEDDY-- THEY'RE ATTACKING!
THEY'RE SPIRITS, TOO! WHAT'LL WE DO? IF WE COULD JUST HURT THEM A LITTLE, THE SPIRITS WOULD LEAVE!

RON CLARK THOUGHT... THEN REGULATED HIS HEAT RAY GUNS... SO THE RAY WOULD BLISTER BUT NOT DESTROY! THEN HE ATTACKED!
IT'S WORKING! YOU'VE GOTTEN ALL BUT THAT ONE -- NOW YOU GOT HIM!
THOSE PILOTS MIGHT BE BLISTERED A LITTLE BUT THEY'RE NOT HAUNTED ANY LONGER! I'LL CALL IN TO THE PILOTS AND CHECK!

YOU'VE ALL SATISFIED ME WITH YOUR VOICE IDENTIFICATIONS! WE'RE GOING INTO OUTER SPACE -- AND STOP THIS WHERE IT STARTED! THOSE SPIRITS ARE FROM KYBLOS... AND THAT'S OUR TARGET!

THE TARGET... KYBLOS, THE PLANET OF WALKING DEAD! WHERE THE SPIRIT OF LIVING BEINGS LEFT PAIN-RACKED BODIES AND MOVED INTO MORE COMFORTABLE SHELLS...

SOME TIME LATER... KYBLOS WAS A SHAMBLES -- AND THE SPIRITS FROM OUTER SPACE WERE DOOMED TO THEIR CELESTIAL TOMB...
THAT WAS GREAT, RON -- BUT THE CHIEF IS STILL AN IT! HE AND THE OTHERS CAN CARRY ON!
I HAVE AN IDEA, NEDDY! IT WILL WORK WITH HIM!

WE'LL HIT THEIR FIELDS -- THEN LET THE SPIRITS ROT HERE! THESE THINGS ARE INCAPABLE OF BUILDING MORE SHIPS!
THEY CAN'T TAKE IT, RON... THIS'LL FINISH THEM!

BACK ON EARTH...
YOU INSOLENT, DISOBEDIENT PUP! I'LL COURT-MARTIAL ALL OF YOU FOR THIS! WE WILL STILL WIN!
I MIGHT GET IN TROUBLE FOR THIS, CHIEF -- BUT HERE GOES!

YOU'LL BE SHOT FOR THIS... ARGGH!
NOT IF I DO A GOOD JOB ON YOU!

THANK HEAVENS YOU DID THAT! IT WAS LIKE A NIGHTMARE! ARE THERE ANY OTHERS THAT WAY?
YES, BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, CHIEF! COULDN'T WE GIVE THEM A SPECIAL TREATMENT -- SAY THEIR PERIODIC NEEDLE INJECTIONS? I'M SURE THAT'LL CHASE THE PURPLE GHOSTS!
AND IT WORKED! THE SPIRITS OF OUTER SPACE WERE BANISHED!

THE WEIRD ROBOTS

"INCREDIBLE... A MASTERWORK"! THEY SAID OF THE M-3 ROBOT! AND INDEED, FOR EARTH, IT HAD SOLVED THE PROBLEMS OF PLANETOID X! NOW MEN OF METAL LABORED THERE! MINED KOLYBDERUM, THE RADITE BLENDER, IN AN ATMOSPHERE THAT COULD SUPPORT NO LIVING THING!

THE KEY TO THE M-3 ROBOT WAS THE BESSELINK BRAIN! AN ELECTRONIC MARVEL! IT HAD BEEN NAMED FOR ITS INVENTOR, THE AGEING GENIUS, WHO HEADED FOR PLANETOID X NOW...
...AND BERATED THOSE WHO HAD OPERATED THE ROBOTS...
THOSE BUMBLING FOOLS! I TELL YOU THE M-3 IS STEEL, RELAYS AND WIRES, STEVE! NOT A REASONING THING THAT COULD TURN ON THEM!
WHAT'S THE ANSWER THEN, PROFESSOR? THEY WERE EXPERIENCED MEN... ALL HAD BEEN CHECKED OUT ON THE M-3! JANE, WHAT'S YOUR IDEA?

LOST IN CHILLING THOUGHTS, SHE ONCE MORE HEARD THE COMMENTS OF HER FATHER'S CO-WORKERS...
BESSELINK GOES TOO FAR... THERE ARE THINGS NOT MEANT FOR SCIENCE TO EXPLORE!
WE'RE OVER THE MINE! IN MOMENTS WE'LL LAND!
THEY WERE GREETED BY THE MINE SECRETARY, LAST MAN ON X, WHO RELAYED THE LATEST COMMUNIQUE...
...NEW DEMANDS FOR KOLYBDERUM... REMEMBER THAT IT'S VITAL TO DEFENSE!...

THEN DOWN INTO THE STILL AND BROODING MINE... NOW BESSELINK'S FINGERS DANCED ON A MICROWAVE ACTIVATOR...
NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT ONE... RESPONDS TO THE CONTROLS PERFECTLY!
WAIT, PROFESSOR-- THE ROBOT'S TURNING TOWARD US!
And THEN IT WAS FLAILING AT THE FRAGILE CONTROL SPHERE... CLAWING FOR THE GLASSY PORT WHERE ITS CREATOR STARED INCREDULOUSLY!

AN ATO-BLAST SENT IT SPRAWLING! THEY'D SOON HAVE THE CAUSE OF THE ROBOT REBELLION NOW! HERE WAS A SUBJECT FOR STUDY...
AND STEVE RETRIEVED IT... CLUNG TO IT AS THE CONTROL SPHERE HEADED UP UP FROM THE SHAFT...
BESSELINK MERELY GLANCED AT THE DAMAGED M-3! HIS WORDS SPOKE HIS DISAPPOINTMENT...
THE BRAIN... THE VITAL BRAIN MELTED BY THE BLAST! WHAT IS LEFT CAN TELL US NOTHING
BUT JANE HAD EXAMINED IT MORE CLOSELY! NOW SHE SHRILLED HER DREAD...
LOOK! BEADS OF WATER... PERSPIRATION! HINTS OF HAIR... DAD... YOU'VE CREATED A MONSTER!!
SHE'S RIGHT!
FOR A MOMENT, THE PROFESSOR PALED AND TREMBLED, BUT HIS SCIENTIFIC MIND REBELLED...
NO... I WILL NOT BELIEVE IT! I CAN NEUTRALIZE THE OTHERS DOWN THERE! WE WILL BRING THEM UP FOR STUDY... MANUALLY, IF NEED BE!
WHILE THEY LABORED, STRANGE CRAFTS HURTLED THROUGH THE COSMIC VACUUM! THE CREATURES ABOARD SPOKE THE LANGUAGE OF SATURN...
SO OUR FLIGHT TO PLANETOID X IS ONLY FOR RECONNAISANCE, COMMANDER?
IT IS SO! TO CHECK THE SUCCESS OF OUR SERVANTS' WORK.
...TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT KOLYBDERUM NO LONGER FALLS TO THE HANDS OF THE EARTHMEN!

IN A PRESSURIZED LAB OF THE MINE INSTALLATION, TESTERS PROBED AND STUDIED M-3 MECHANISMS, BUT...
NOT A SIGN OF ANYTHING HERE, PROFESSOR...AND WE DON'T DARE ACTIVATE THEM AGAIN!

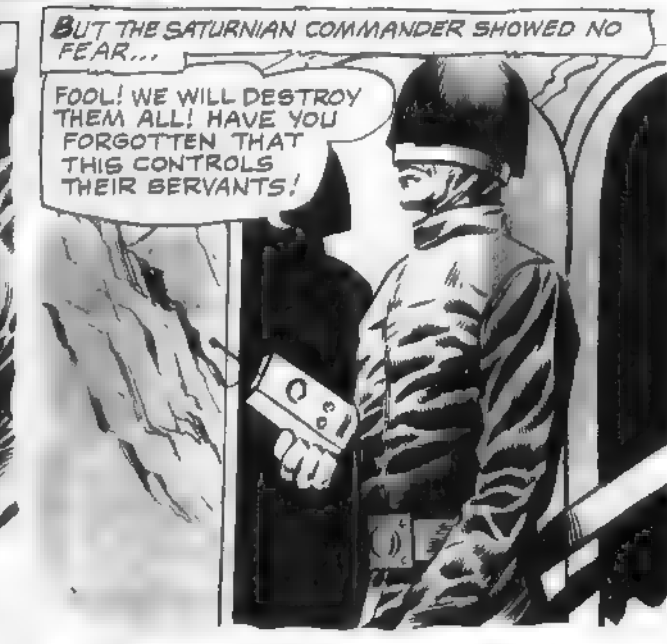
BUT NOW SHEATHING SLIPPED AWAY TO REVEAL THE BESSELINK BRAIN! ITS INVENTOR GASPED...
LOOK! A LONG RANGE CRYSTAL RECEPTOR HAS BEEN ADDED HERE! IT'S SATURNIAN QUARTZ!!

SO THIS WAS THE ANSWER... EARTH'S SERVANTS CONTROLLED BY A BELLIGERENT ALIEN WORLD!
WE CAN REMOVE THE RECEPTORS... MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS, EH, PROFESSOR?

TIME FOR JANE TO BE SHOWN ABOUT THE PLANETOID, BUT THIS WAS NOT PART OF IT...
ROCKET DISC... SATURN'S!

THEY TURNED TO FLEE AND SPREAD THE ALARM, BUT...
THERE THEY ARE... LOOK OUT!

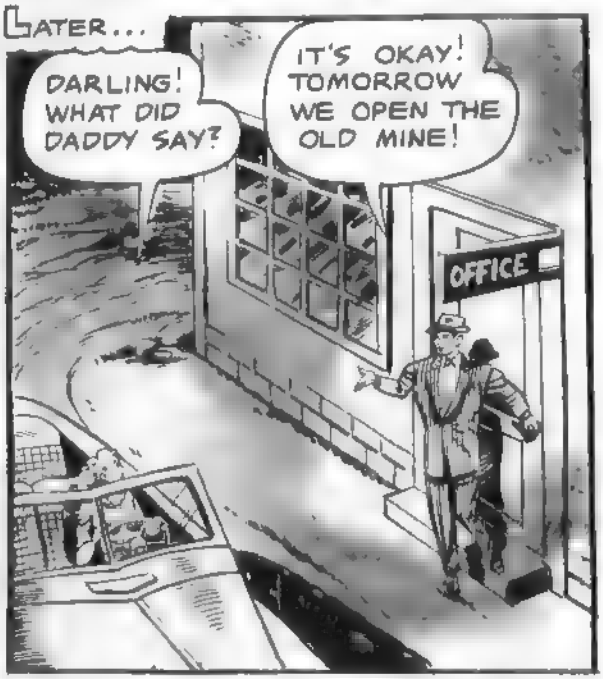
THE SATURNIANS INTERCEPT AND CAPTURE THE DUO!
THERE WILL BE OTHERS, COMMANDER...OTHERS WITH ATO-GUNS!


BUT THE SATURNIAN COMMANDER SHOWED NO FEAR...
FOOL! WE WILL DESTROY THEM ALL! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT THIS CONTROLS THEIR SERVANTS!

WITH THEIR HOSTAGES, THEY NEARED THE LAB, AS STEVE AND PROFESSOR BESSELINK EMERGED WITH THE ROBOTS...
INSTANTLY, A RUTHLESS ALIEN LEADER KEYED A COMMAND TO THE MEN OF METAL... 'KILL... KILL!' BUT...
THEY DO NOT RESPOND! WHAT?
GONE WERE THE SATURNIAN RECEPTORS... THE M-3'S RESPONDED NOW ONLY TO THE MICROWAVES THAT STEVE TRANSMITTED...
AT THEM... DESTROY THEM!
AND THEY WERE UPON THE ALIEN INVADERS WITH STARTLING SPEED, RIPPING, CRUSHING...
UNTIL AT LAST...
IT'S ALL OVER, JANE!
YES, AND THAT IS ONE EXPEDITION SATURN WILL LIST AMONG THE MISSING!
THEY HEADED HOME, SOON AFTER JANE'S FATHER TO THE TOP AWARD OF SCIENCE FOR THE BESSELINK BRAIN...
And AFTER THEM CAME A CONSTANT FLOW OF KOLYBDERUM, THE RADIATE BLENDER, TO RENDER IMPREGNABLE THE DEFENSES OF GLORIOUS EARTH!
THE END

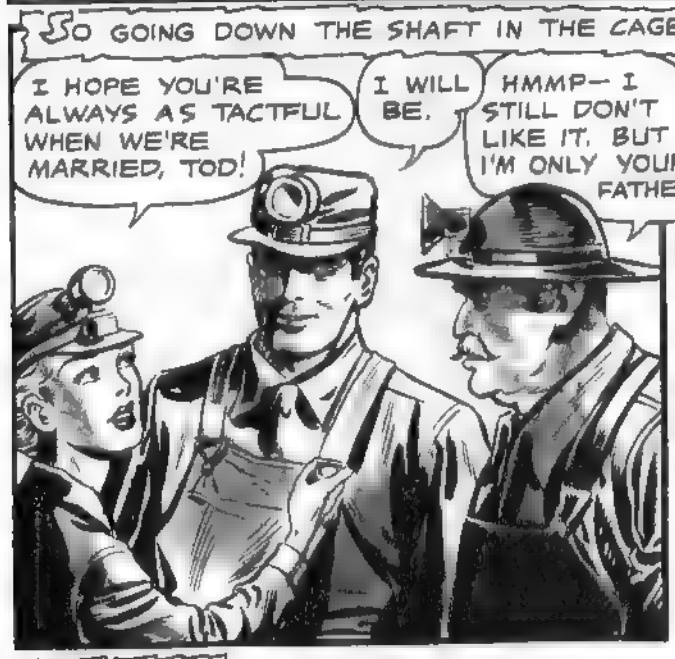
HORROR in the MINE!

FROM THE BLAZING UNEXPLORED CENTER OF THE EARTH IT CAME! TRULY A VISITOR FROM HADES STALKING LIKE DEATH WITH A THOUSAND TALONS! NOT EVEN THE BRAVEST OF MEN COULD FACE THE HORROR IN THE MINE...



NEXT DAY...
WELL, SIR, ALMOST READY! JUST HAVE TO GO DOWN AND SET OFF THE CHARGES!
FINE! SAY, ISN'T THAT PRUE COMING THIS WAY?

HELLO, YOU TWO! I'M GOING DOWN WITH YOU.
NOW, PRUE! YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE YOU IN THE MINE!
SHE'LL BE SAFE ENOUGH, SIR.


SO GOING DOWN THE SHAFT IN THE CAGE...
I HOPE YOU'RE ALWAYS AS TACTFUL WHEN WE'RE MARRIED, TOD!
I WILL BE.
HMMP— I STILL DON'T LIKE IT, BUT I'M ONLY YOUR FATHER!

SAY— THIS OLD PASSAGE IS SPOOKY!
JUST AHEAD IS THE OLD MINE!
HEY— YOU HEAR ANY-THING? LIKE A SCREAM?

SUDDENLY...
G-GET BACK! IT'S COMING! K-KILLED ALL OF THEM! H-HORRIBLE!
HE'S BLOOD ALL OVER!
CATCH HIM!
GREAT SCOTT!

SOMETHING —(SOB)— HORRIBLE BACK IN MINE! KILLED — I— I—
HE'S DYING!
WHAT, MAN? WHAT WAS IT?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S IN THERE, BUT I'M GOING TO FIND OUT!
WE MUST! SOME OTHERS MAY BE ALIVE.
I'M G-GOING, TOO.

A MINUTE LATER...
LOOK! ALL DEAD!
OHHHH—
BUT HOW? THERE WAS NO EXPLOSION, NO CAVE-IN! WHAT KILLED THEM?

TOO! FATHER! T—THERE! COMING OUT OF THAT HOLE...
IT'S COMING FROM THE OLD MINE!
RUN!
H—HURRY!

FASTER! IT'S TRYING TO CUT US OFF!
OH, IT'S HORRIBLE!

HELP— AHHHHH—
IT'S GOT DADDY!
RUN, PRUE! I'LL SAVE HIM!

TOD PICKS UP AN AXE DROPPED BY ONE OF THE MINERS...
MAYBE I CAN CHOP OFF THAT— THAT THING!
OH, HURRY—HURRY! SAVE HIM!
GUGG—

BUT OUT OF THE SHADOWS...
T-TOD! HELP! IT'S GOT ME!

TOD MAKES A HARD DECISION..
CAN'T SAVE THEM BOTH! SO—(GASP)— IT'S GOT TO BE PRUE!

OHHHH— OOOO—
IT'S ALL RIGHT, BABY! HAVE YOU FREE IN A MINUTE! UGH— BLACK BLOOD!

CAN'T LAST MUCH LONGER! G—GOT TO GET AWAY! B—BRUTES GOT TOO MANY ARMS!

BUT EVEN AS HE BREAKS AWAY AND RUNS...
COMING AFTER M-ME! GOT TO THINK OF SOMETHING FAST!

TOD FINDS SOME EXPLOSIVES IN ANOTHER PASSAGE..
MY ONLY CHANCE! IF I CAN BLOW THIS PASSAGE BEFORE IT GETS HERE. BLOCK IT OFF...
DANGER DYNAMITE!
BLUE VALLEY

SECONDS MEANT LIFE OR DEATH IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE UNKNOWN HORROR...
I'LL PROBABLY BRING THE WHOLE SHAFT IN ON OUR HEADS, BUT I'VE GOT TO TAKE THE CHANCE...
DYNAMITE
BLUE VALLEY

SHORTEST FUSE I EVER LIT! GOT TO HURRY OR WE'LL GO UP WITH IT!
T-TOD! WHERE ARE WE? WHAT...

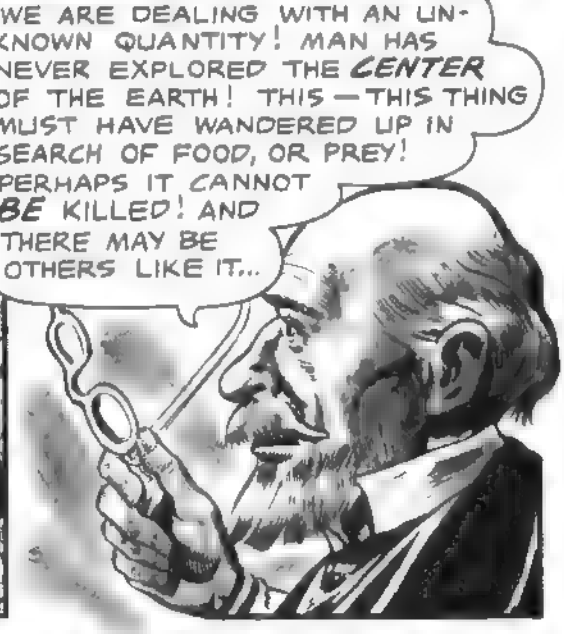
COME ON! THE PLACE IS GOING UP IN A MINUTE! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE, BABY!
OH, SO T-TIRED! H-HELP ME!

THAT DID IT — I HOPE! AT LEAST WE'RE SAFE FOR A TIME!

LATER...
MR. HUTCHINS! WE HEARD AN EXPLOSION!
IS THE GIRL ALL RIGHT?
SURE! WE'RE BOTH ALL RIGHT! GET US OUT OF HERE, BOYS! EVERYBODY GET OUT!

LATER AT AN URGENT CONFERENCE...
WE'VE GOT TO ACT FAST, GENTLEMEN! I DON'T THINK THE THING IS DEAD!
INCREDIBLE!
IN OUR MINE! WHAT COULD IT BE?

I SAY CALL OUT THE MILITIA.
FIRST HEAR WHAT PROFESSOR SAXE HAS TO SAY! ONE OF OUR GREATEST SCIENTISTS!
THANK YOU! I WILL TRY TO BE HELPFUL!


WE ARE DEALING WITH AN UNKNOWN QUANTITY! MAN HAS NEVER EXPLORED THE CENTER OF THE EARTH! THIS — THIS THING MUST HAVE WANDERED UP IN SEARCH OF FOOD, OR PREY! PERHAPS IT CANNOT BE KILLED! AND THERE MAY BE OTHERS LIKE IT...

THAT'S FINE, PROFESSOR, BUT HOW DO WE KILL IT? IF WE EVER GOT IT?
THE POLICE ARE HELPLESS!
PERHAPS A BOMB COULD DESTROY IT.

GREAT GODFREY! IT— IT IS OUT! L-LOOK!

MINUTES LATER...
W— WHAT'S HAPPENING, TOD? ALL THOSE SCREAMS!
NO TIME TO TALK! GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!

BUT YOU JUST CAN'T CARRY ME ABOUT IN THE STREETS LIKE THIS!
BLUE VALLEY HOSPITAL
I KNOW! GOT TO FIND SOME WAY TO...

THAT OLD JALOPY! JUST THE THING... IF IT'LL GO!
WHY IS EVERYONE RUNNING AROUND? WHAT'S WRONG, TOD? TELL ME... TELL ME...

MEANTIME IN WASHINGTON...
YES, MR. PRESIDENT! I UNDERSTAND — A NATIONAL EMERGENCY! ALL PRIORITY! BUT, SIR! THE... BOMB!

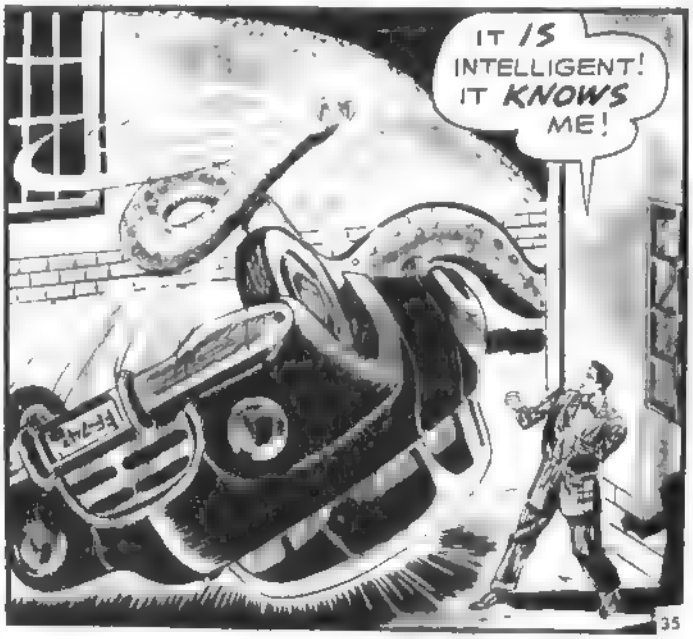
SOON AFTER AT AN AIRFIELD...
HEY, WHAT'S UP?
DUNNO, BUT IT'S THE McCOY! NO DRY RUN THIS TIME!
YEAH — WE'RE REALLY GOING TO DROP IT!

THAT SETTLES IT! WE'VE GOT TO CALL IN THE GOVERNMENT!
THE ARMY! THE NAVY! ANYONE!

I MUST SAVE PRUE!

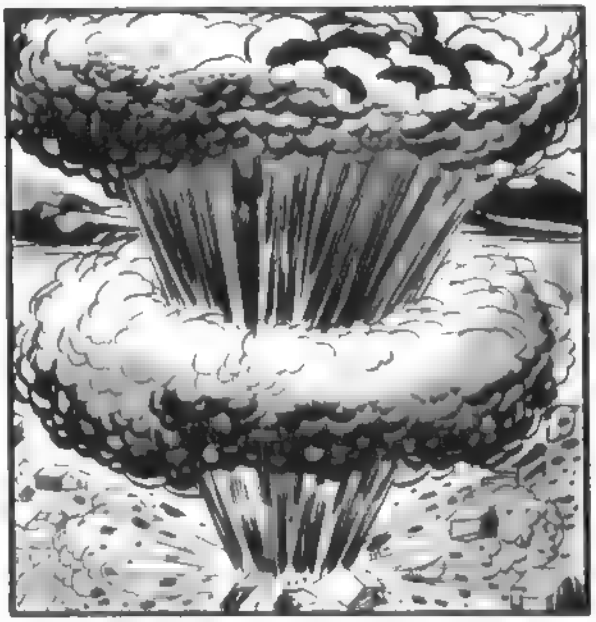
TOD NOW THINKS ONLY OF PRUE BEAL..
GOT TO GET TO THE MINE HOSPITAL! THAT THING HAS GONE MAD!

MY CAR! THE BRUTE SEEMS TO BE AFTER ME!


IT IS INTELLIGENT! IT KNOWS ME!

AND ON A DISTANT HILL...
WE WERE LUCKY I FOUND THAT OLD JALOPY!
THOSE POOR PEOPLE!

BOMB AWAY!
AS OVER THE TOWN...



MUCH LATER...
THE MYSTERIOUS MONSTER HAS BEEN DESTROYED, ALONG WITH THE TOWN! EVERYONE IS WARNED TO STAY AWAY FROM RADIO-ACTIVE AREAS AND..
OH, IT'S BEEN LIKE A NIGHTMARE! DID IT REALLY HAPPEN, TOD?
YES, BABY! BUT IT'S OVER NOW! FOREVER.

POOR FATHER! WHEN I THINK...
GO AHEAD AND CRY IT OUT, BABY! BUT REMEMBER, WE'VE STILL GOT THE FUTURE!
THE END

THE LAST LAUGH!

THE BIG JOKE WAS ON BIFF, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU COULD CALL IT! HERE HE WAS, THE FUNNIEST MAN IN TOWN, (ACCORDING TO HIM) — AND SOMEONE TOPPED HIS REPARTEE... SOMEONE VERY UNUSUAL! HE WAS SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS OLD... AND SO WERE HIS JOKES... THAT IS, IF YOU CONSIDER **HAUNTING** CORNY AND OLD HAT!

THERE IS ONE IN EVERY OFFICE, AND AT MERRITT AND BLEEKER IT WAS BIFF JOHNSON...

SO IT WENT! FOR INSTANCE THERE WAS THE SNEEZING POWDER...
KACHOO!
HA-HA-HA-HA— THIS IS SLAYING ME! I NEVER — HO-HO-HO-HO— LAUGHED SO MUCH IN MY LIFE! BUT DON'T WORRY, FOLKS! A LITTLE —(CHUCKLE)— SNEEZING POWDER WON'T HURT YA!
KA-CHOO!

AND THIS OLD TRICK, OF COURSE...
HOW ABOUT IT, CHARLIE? I BET YA NEVER —(GUFFAW)— GOT SUCH A BANG OUT OF A CIGAR BEFORE, HUH?
YOWWWPPP—
POW!

UNTIL ONE DAY THE INEVITABLE HAPPENS...
WATCH THIS, BILL! I'M GONNA LIVEN THINGS UP AROUND HERE! DON'T KNOW WHO HE IS, BUT WILL HE BE SURPRISED!
YEAH — HE SURE WILL!
AND SO WILL YOU, YOU BUM! I COULD TELL YOU WHO HE IS, BUT I WON'T!

AND THE AXE FALLS...
OWWWWWW— MY FOOT! SO— IT'S YOU, JOHNSON! GET OUT BEFORE I FIX YOU! YOU'RE FIRED, DISMISSED, CANNED! GET OUT!
HUH! MISTER B-BLEEKER! GEE, BOSS, I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU! I'M SORRY! I'LL...

SO BIFF GETS HOME A LITTLE EARLY THAT DAY AND FINDS HIS LANDLADY WAITING...
A LETTER FOR YOU, BIFF! JUST CAME SPECIAL DELIVERY! MAYBE SOMEONE LEFT YOU A FORTUNE!
SURE HOPE SO, MRS. WIGGINS! I CAN USE A LITTLE GOOD LUCK AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TODAY! I'VE BEEN FIRED!

BUT A MINUTE LATER...
IF I HAVE, I LIKE IT! MY OLD UNCLE RALPH HAS GONE AND LEFT ME A CASTLE—A CASTLE IN SPAIN! I'M RICH— RICH!
BIFF JOHNSON, LET ME GO! HAVE YOU GONE CRAZY?

IT TURNS OUT THAT THINGS ARE NOT QUITE AS ROSY AS BIFF EXPECTED — STILL A CASTLE IS A CASTLE, EVEN IN SPAIN, MARYLAND! SO A FEW DAYS LATER...

SO YE COME ALL THE WAY FROM CHICAGO TO LIVE IN YER UNCLE'S CASTLE, MR. JOHNSON! SURE WAS A FINE OLD GENT YER UNCLE! BUT YE'LL FIND THE CASTLE JEST OVER THE HILL!

THANKS, OLD TIMER! I WANT TO GET SETTLED IN MY NEW HOME BEFORE IT GETS DARK!

POST OFFICE SPAIN, MARYLAND

LATER AS THE SHADOWS FALL...

HMM — DON'T LOOK LIKE SO MUCH! DON'T KNOW AS I'D EVEN CALL IT A CASTLE! BUT I GUESS IT WAS MY UNCLE'S IDEA OF A CASTLE! GHOST AND ALL!

IF THAT OLD DUFFER WAS TELLING THE TRUTH, THERE IS A GHOST! SOME SORT OF CAVALIER OR SOMETHING FROM THE PIONEER DAYS! DON'T PUT ANY STOCK IN GHOSTS MYSELF!

SUDDENLY...

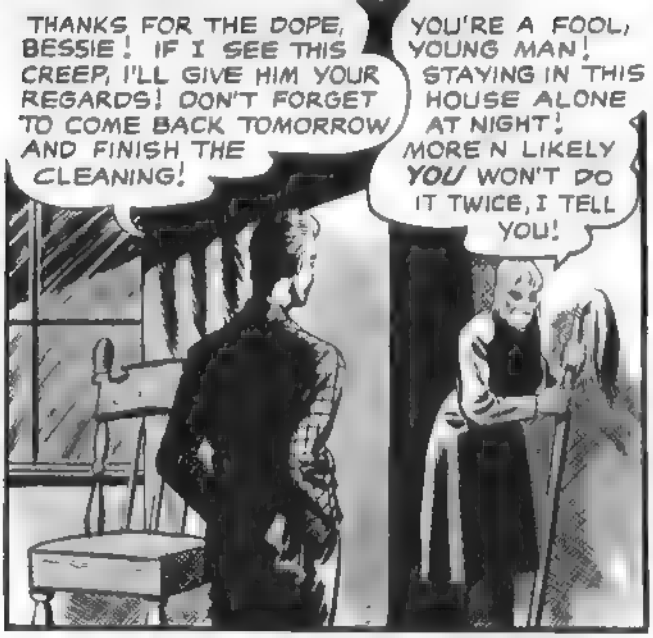
YIIIII — YOU S-STARTLED ME! W-WHO ARE YOU?

HEH-HEH! SCARED YE, DID I? WELL, IT AIN'T ME YE NEED TO BE AFRAID OF, YOUNG FELLER! I'M ONLY OLD BESSIE, THE CLEANING WOMAN! LAWYER THOMPSON ASKED ME TO CLEAN UP THE HOUSE FOR YE!

I BEEN HEARING THE RUMORS, BESSIE! TELL ME ALL ABOUT THIS SPOOK!

IT'S THE CRUEL CAVALIER YE SHOULD BE SCAIRT OF! HE HAS HARMED A POOR INDIAN GIRL YEARS AGO, WHEN THIS WAS THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION!

LAUGH IF YE WANT TO, BUT THERE'S A GHOST RIGHT ENOUGH! TWO OF THEM! THE CRUEL CAVALIER COMES BACK AND HARMS THAT POOR GIRL OVER AND OVER AGAIN, SAME AS HE DID IN REAL LIFE MORE'N TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO! I'VE HEARD HER COMPLAINING, I TELL YA!


THANKS FOR THE DOPE, BESSIE! IF I SEE THIS CREEP, I'LL GIVE HIM YOUR REGARDS! DON'T FORGET TO COME BACK TOMORROW AND FINISH THE CLEANING!
YOU'RE A FOOL, YOUNG MAN! STAYING IN THIS HOUSE ALONE AT NIGHT! MORE N LIKELY YOU WON'T DO IT TWICE, I TELL YOU!

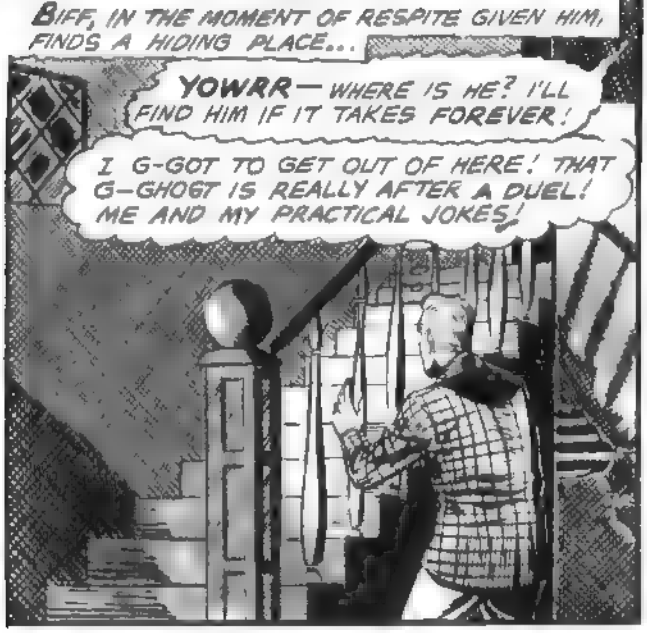
LATER, AS A NEARBY CLOCK TOLLS MIDNIGHT...
BRRRRR—FUNNY HOW THOSE DARNED STORIES GET ON YOUR NERVES! I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD OF ALL THAT STUFF, STILL I KEEP IMAGINING I HEAR THINGS! MAYBE I BETTER GET TO BED!

THERE IT IS AGAIN—THAT SOUND! HEY—T-THERE'S REALLY SOMETHING IN THE ROOM! A GHOST!
I'LL BE WITH YOU IN A MINUTE, MY FRIEND—AS SOON AS I MATERIALIZE FULLY!

SAY, ARE YOU REALLY A GHOST? OR IS THIS SOME RIB? MAYBE SOMEBODY TRYING TO GET EVEN WITH ME, HUH?
YOU DOUBT ME? LATER I WILL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THAT—BUT NOW I WILL SHOW YOU HOW REAL I AM! WATCH CLOSELY AS I BOW!

I SALUTE YOU, SIR.
YOWWW—SOME TRICK! I GUESS YOU'RE A GHOST ALL RIGHT! I NEVER SAW ANY BEFORE, THOUGH! DO YOU KNOW ANY OTHER TRICKS AS GOOD AS THAT ONE?
I TRUST YOU ARE CONVINCED! BUT I SEE THAT YOU DO NOT TAKE ANY OF THIS SERIOUSLY—PERHAPS YOU WILL FEEL DIFFERENTLY WHEN MY TEMPER IS AROUSED!
NOW THAT'S NO WAY TO TALK, FELLA! JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE A GHOST IS NO REASON WE HAVE TO FIGHT! WHY, WE MIGHT EVEN GET TO BE GOOD FRIENDS!
HERE, HAVE A SMOKE! NOTHING LIKE A GOOD CIGAR TO SETTLE THE NERVES! LATER MAYBE YOU'LL SHOW ME THAT NEAT TRICK—I COULD WOW 'EM WITH THAT ONE!
YOU ARE A FOOL! BUT IT IS A LONG TIME SINCE I TASTED A GOOD CIGAR!
I'M NOT R-REALLY AFRAID! B-BETTER STALL FOR T-TIME!

AH, THAT IS GOOD! SMELLS LIKE SOME OF OUR GOOD MARYLAND TOBACCO! I'M MUCH OBLIGED TO YOU, SIR, AND I REGRET WHAT I MUST DO!
YOU MEAN YOU'RE STILL GOING TO— (GULP) H-HAUNT ME?
I'M AFRAID I MUST, OR BE THE LAUGHING STOCK OF EVERY GHOST IN THE COUNTRY! AFTER ALL I AM CALLED THE CRUEL CAVALIER, YOU KNOW! I HAVE A HAUNTING REPUTATION AND I MUST UPHOLD IT!
EEEYOWWWW!
POW
GADZOOKS! ODDS BODKINS! I'LL ATTEND TO YOU, JOKER... IF I EVER GET MY HANDS ON YOU! LAUGH AT THE CRUEL CAVALIER, WILL YOU!
GREAT GUNS, I FORGOT ABOUT THAT LOADED CIGAR! NOW HE WILL BE FURIOUS! ONLY I GOTTA DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT FIRST!
HO, YOU CUR! STOP, YOU LILY-LIVERED OAF! I'LL TEACH YOU TO MAKE A FOOL OF ME!
THIS SNEEZING POWDER MIGHT SLOW HIM DOWN UNTIL I CAN THINK OF WHAT TO DO! SURE GLAD I DIDN'T THROW IT AWAY!
HEY, DON'T! I'M SORRY! WATCH IT, WILL YA— THAT THING IS SHARP!
APOLOGIZE OR I'LL SEND YOU INTO ETERNITY! I'LL SHOW YOU WHO YOU'RE DEALING WITH! I'LL AHHHHH—
AHHHHHHHH—
YOW— I'M FLYING!
KA CHO


BIFF, IN THE MOMENT OF RESPITE GIVEN HIM, FINDS A HIDING PLACE...
YOWRR— WHERE IS HE? I'LL FIND HIM IF IT TAKES FOREVER!
I G-GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! THAT G-GHOST IS REALLY AFTER A DUEL! ME AND MY PRACTICAL JOKES!

NO USE TRYING TO ESCAPE ME, YOU FOOL! AND I DON'T HAVE ALL NIGHT—I HAVE A SCHEDULE TO KEEP!
WHAT HAVE I—(GROAN)—GOTTEN INTO THIS TIME?

I KNOW YOU'RE AROUND SOMEWHERE, HUMAN! I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME! SO LISTEN! CENTURIES AGO I HARMED A BEAUTIFUL INDIAN GIRL IN THIS VERY LOCALE—NOW I MUST RETURN EACH NIGHT TO APOLOGIZE... BUT I CAN'T LOCATE HER!

AND NATURALLY I CAN'T HAVE ANY RIVALS! YOU, SIR, APPEAR TO BE ONE! SO YOU MUST DEPART!

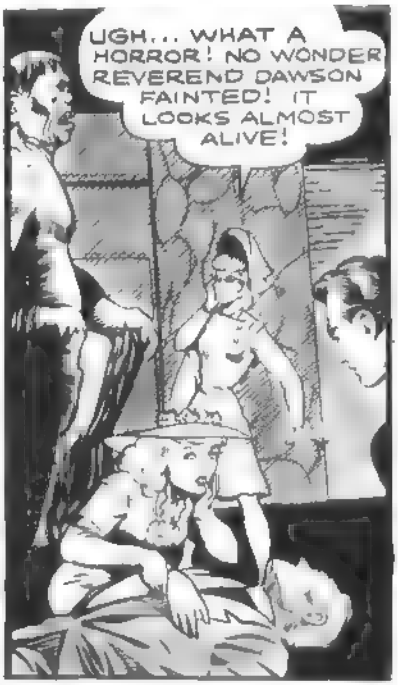
ON THE VERGE OF FLEEING, BIFF IS CONFRONTED BY THE GHOST OF THE BEAUTIFUL INDIAN GIRL..
H-HUH! SO THERE R-REALLY IS A G-GIRL! YOU'RE THE ONE HE'S GOING TO APOLOGIZE TO!
YES! FOR CENTURIES NOW HE'S BEEN SEEKING ME! BUT YOU CAN HELP ME IF YOU WILL PLEASE!

HE BELIEVES I WANTED HIM AS MY BRIDEGROOM, BUT HE IS WRONG! YET I WOULD ACCEPT YOU, PALE BROTHER!
M-ME? YOWW! BUT I BELONG TO THIS CENTURY AND THIS WORLD, NOT YOURS!

AND SO THE PERPETUAL JOKE GOES ON... NOW WILL POOR OLD BESSIE DESERT THE HOUSE OR WILL SHE BE WILLING TO ABIDE WITH THE RATTLING AND RANTING OF THE POMPOUS CAVALIER?...

HE ROSE FROM THE GRAVE

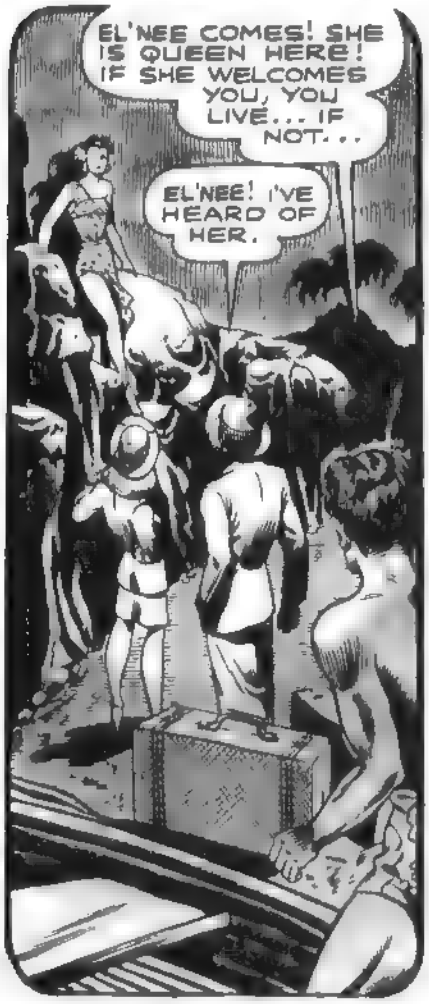
WHAT COULD STOP THIS BRUTE WHO ESCAPED THE DEAD AND SOUGHT TO MINGLE WITH THE LIVING??



HE WAS ALIVE ONCE!
AND NOT SO LONG AGO... WHILE REVEREND DAWSON IS RESTING, I'LL TELL YOU THE STORY...

YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE WORLD! THE ONLY SPECIMEN OF PREHISTORIC MAN... THE MISSING LINK! AND STRANGELY ENOUGH THE STORY BEGINS WITH ANOTHER WEDDING...

"IT WAS IN THE EBB-WIND ISLES OVER A YEAR AGO. PAM AND I LANDED ONE FINE EVENING..."
AT LAST... THE MYTHICAL ISLANDS ARE REAL!
THE NATIVE, MIKE... HE'S TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING.


EL'NEE COMES! SHE IS QUEEN HERE! IF SHE WELCOMES YOU, YOU LIVE... IF NOT...
EL'NEE! I'VE HEARD OF HER.

"BUT EL'NEE WAS FRIENDLY... AND THAT NIGHT WE ATTENDED A WEDDING..."
THIS IS TOTTI, MY LIFELONG FRIEND. TONIGHT SHE CHANGES HER WHITE ROSE FOR A RED ONE!
I UNDERSTAND... ONLY UNMARRIED GIRLS CAN WEAR THE WHITE ROSE.
WONDER IF EL'NEE KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT THE RUMOR THAT AN APE MAN HAS BEEN SEEN IN THESE ISLANDS?

"BUT AS THE WEDDING WAS ABOUT TO BEGIN, A WITCH DOCTOR APPEARED..."
THIS CANNOT BE, EL'NEE! MY FIRES SPEAK. TOTTI MUST BE THE BRIDE OF THE MAN-THING!
SUPERSTITIOUS FOOL... THE MAN-THING KEEPS TO HIMSELF AND CANNOT HARM US. TOTTI SHALL MARRY HER TRUE VAHINE!

NO, EL'NEE, PLEASE... DO NOT LET THEM...
IF YOUR MAGIC IS GREATER THAN THE MAN-THING, EL'NEE... PROVE IT...
MAN-THING? I WONDER IF IT COULD BE... THAT RUMOR...

EL'NEE IS QUEEN HERE... BUT SOME OF MY PEOPLE STILL DOUBT MY POWERS! I WILL GO TO THE MAN-THING... AND SLAY IT!

IN A WAR CANOE WE CROSSED THE QUIET, MOON-SILVERED STRAIT...
STAY CLOSE TO EL'NEE, LITTLE ONE. NO HURT WILL COME YOUR WAY.
I'M FRIGHTENED, MIKE. WHAT IS THIS MAN-THING?
I DON'T KNOW... BUT I'M HOPING IT'S A LEFT OVER FROM PREHISTORIC TIMES!

WHAT A FEATHER IN MY CAP, PAM, IF I CAN GET A SPECIMEN OF MAN AS HE WAS FIFTY THOUSAND YEARS AGO. MY FELLOW ANTHROPOLOGISTS WOULD BE GREEN WITH ENVY!
I KNOW, BUT...

"WHILE IN ANOTHER CANOE..."
THE MAN-THING WILL BE ANGERED AND WE WILL ALL DIE... WE MUST OUTWIT EL'NEE!
IF ONLY THE TRAVELERS KNEW HOW CLOSE DEATH IS, PERHAPS THEY WOULD TURN BACK!

"THE SIMPLE NATIVES WERE TERRIFIED..."
YOU MUST NOT SACRIFICE TO THE MAN-THING! EL'NEE TRIES TO ENLIGHTEN YOU... AND NOW SHE WILL SLAY THIS EVIL ONE!
EL'NEE SPEAKS WELL. BUT IF A BRIDE IS NOT TAKEN TO THE SACRED PLACE, WE ALL DIE!

"WHILE NEARBY..."
PSST! TOTTI! COME TELL ME OF YOUR WEDDING FEAST!

WHAT HARM TO SPEAK A MOMENT WITH A FRIEND?
HURRY, GIRL!

GOOD! HAD SHE NOT COME, MALA, YOU WOULD HAVE TO TAKE HER PLACE AT THE ROCK!

EL'NEE! EL'NEE! THEY HAVE STOLEN TOTTI!

"IN A FEW MOMENTS, WE WERE IN HOT PURSUIT..."
YONDER, ATOP THAT MOUNTAIN, IS THE SACRED PLACE! THEY WILL TAKE TOTTI THERE AND LEAVE HER...
BUT THAT PLATEAU... IT...IT'S INACCESSIBLE.

BUT THE SHEER HEIGHT OF THE CLIFF IS NO BARRIER TO SOMEONE...
A LONE FIGURE, BENT APE-FASHION, PRESSES THROUGH THE FOREST...

"SMASHING THE UNDER-GROWTH WITH EVERY HEAVY FOOTSTEP, THE BEAST-MAN STALKS INTO VIEW..."

EL'NEE...WHERE ARE YOU?... HELP! SAVE ME..... HELP!

"FURIOUS WITH A PRIMITIVE WRATH THAT AN OUTSIDER HAS INVADED HIS WILD DOMAIN, THE BEAST-MAN SPRINGS INTO ACTION..."

"HURLING THE MIGHTY TREE WITHOUT EFFORT, HE PREPARES A STABLE BRIDGE..."

"ALMOST EXHAUSTED, WE NEARED THE PEAK..."
MAKE HASTE... POOR TOTTI...
LOOK...SOMETHING MOVING ON THAT LEDGE...
USE YOUR STRENGTH, FOOL! IT IS EL'NEE!
SHE WILL BE NO MORE AS SOON AS I MOVE THIS BOULDER!
STAND CLEAR! DRAW INTO THE CLIFF AND YOU MAY ESCAPE!
WE CAN PLAY THOSE KIND OF GAMES TOO! AND GUNS ARE MORE ACCURATE!
WITH A SCREAM OF PAIN, A FIGURE TOTTERS ON THE BRINK OF THE CLIFF AND THEN LUNGES FORWARD.
AIEEE!
"AT LAST WE REACHED THE SUMMIT..."
TOO LATE! THE MAN-THING IS HERE! AND HE HAS THE GIRL!

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LUCK WAS WITH EL'NEE... A CREVICE IN THE CLIFFSIDE CAUGHT THE FALLING TREE...
SUCH IS FATE... JUST AS IT IS SO THAT HE WEARS MY DAGGER DEEP IN HIS PAGAN HEART!
"I POURED BULLETS INTO THE SCREAMING MONSTER..."
EL'NEE ... YOU KEPT YOUR WORD... SAVED ME...
THERE IS STILL MUCH TO DO, LITTLE ONE...
GIVE EL'NEE BACK HER STEEL, MONSTER AND SHE WILL GIVE IT TO YOU AGAIN AND AGAIN!
IT'S ALL OVER NOW. STEADY, TOTTI, WE CROSS THE TREE BRIDGE...
GOOD WORK, EL'NEE, YOU FINISHED THE BRUTE!
BUT NOW TO GET THE CARCASS OVER... HAVE TO BUILD ANOTHER BRIDGE...
"SO IT WASN'T SO STRANGE, AFTER ALL THAT, REVEREND DAWSON FAINTED..."
WE DID BUILD A BRIDGE TO GET THE BODY... DID A GOOD JOB OF STUFFING IT, TOO.
TOTTI MARRIED HER TRUE VAHINE AND EL'NEE STILL RULES THE EBB-WIND ISLES...
BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO TOTTI... AND EL'NEE?
MIKE'S STORY... BRINGS IT ALL BACK SO CLEAR... HORRIBLE... OHHH...
HORRIBLE, EH? LITTLE DO THEY KNOW! HEH-HEH... THEY THINK I'M FINISHED... OH, NO! NOT YET! WAIT UNTIL TONIGHT WHEN SHADOWS CREEP! HEH-HEH... TONIGHT IT'S YOUR TURN!
The End